

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
February 10, 2003 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** James A. Workman, Chairman, Brian C. Warburton, Bonnie B. Searle,  
Virginia Bridle, William Sullivan  
James S. Barrington, Town Manager  
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

**I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Senior Patrol Leader Peter Argue, and other scouts from Boy Scout Troop 177 led the audience in the flag salute.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Absentee Ballots

Mrs. Searle said that she understands that the sample ballots are in the process of being printed and stated that if a voter is unable to stand at the polls for an untold period of time for 70 or more warrant articles, they should request an absentee ballot.

Legislative Hearings

There are three legislative public hearings of interest to Hampton on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 in LOB 201 regarding the establishment of a Hampton Beach Commission; 10:30 in LOB 301 regarding the trust funds; and at 2:45 PM on the Coalition Communities Targeted Aid proposal.

Penguin Plunge

The Penguin Plunge took place this past weekend with over 445 plungers raising over \$250,000 for Special Olympics. The Board commended Captain Jamie Sullivan for his efforts as co-chairman of this event and complimented all of the businesses, volunteers and participants on this excellent event to raise funds for this important cause.

Absentee Ballots

Mr. Workman read a memo from Arleen Andreozzi, Town Clerk outlining the requirements for obtaining an absentee ballot in order to correct a statement made by Mrs. Searle the previous week.

**III. APPOINTMENTS**

**1. Legislative Delegation**

Representative Sheila Francoeur thanked the Board for allowing the delegation to update the Board on the legislative session as they have been doing each year. She explained that on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> the Legislative Delegation will meet in joint session for the presentation of the State budget from the Governor. She said it is expected that there will be some serious reductions in the budget due to the proposed deficit. Representative Francoeur told the Board that the education-funding crisis continues to be a major issue and HB 717, brought forward by the Coalition Communities will be heard by the Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday in addition there are also several other bills on the education issue, HB 608 sponsored by Representative Gatsas and HB 629 sponsored by Representative Hess. She said that a proposal is also expected to be released by the Governor on Thursday.

Representative Francoeur said that there are about 1,000 bills that will have a hearing before March, with several regarding telemarketing, redistricting, medical issues, labor issues and water issues. Representative Francoeur told the Board that she has been appointed Speaker Pro-Tem, and sits on the Commerce, Rules, Joint Audit and Joint Legislative Oversight Committees. She has co-sponsored 15 bills and co-sponsored one study on the desalination of water in the Seacoast.

Representative O'Neil told the Board that he has been appointed Chairman of the Executive Departments and Administration Committee which deals with all state agencies and departments and

the state retirement system. In addition he is working on a joint committee on the judicial retirement system and the state Board of Claims. Rep. O'Neil said that references have been made in regard to the Bills for the Hampton Beach Master Plan and the Trust Funds and it is important to understand that the legislation was submitted at the request of citizens of Hampton and both Bills were supported 4-1 by the Board of Selectmen. Representative O'Neil said that the hearings this week are the opportune time for the residents to come and voice their opinions on the bill or let their legislators know where they stand on these issues.

Representative Bridle told the Board that he is Vice Chairman of the Labor Committee and deals with issues related to unemployment, worker's compensation and child labor. He has co-sponsored 5-6 bills, one of them in conjunction with the County Attorney on elder abuse. One of the Bills he will be following of interest to Hampton is HB 635 that will provide a couple additional turnarounds on Route 95 for emergency vehicles.

Representative Gillick said that he is learning his way around as a new representative and has been appointed to the Municipal and County Government Committee and is hearing 5 –6 bills per day. He urged the Board of Selectmen to review the Legislative Bulletin that is put out by NHMA because it describes the bills and position that NHMA is taking on them for communities. Representative Gillick said that he will be using NHMA's recommendations in his decision on bills unless he hears differently from the Board. Rep. Gillick told the Board that he was able to spend a few minutes last week at the press conference for the Coalition Communities, it was his impression that the presentation was very professional, proactive and thorough.

Representative Kelley noted that she was the Clerk of the Labor Committee and will be working to kill the Right-To-Work bill, pointing out that every state with that legislation has a lower than average salary range and she feels that it is a union-busting tool. Representative Kelly told the Board that she is totally opposed to the raid on the trust funds and does not think that legislation should be fiddled with, she added that too many businesses have borrowed from themselves and have not been able to pay it back. Rep. Kelley stated that as far as NHMA is concerned, it is her opinion that they are lobbyists and are a pro-slavery group.

Representative O'Neil said that as Hampton's delegation they wanted to stress how important it was for residents to communicate with their representatives; it is the only way the delegation has to know the feelings of the people.

Mrs. Searle said it was wonderful to see the full delegation present and she thinks it is the second time it has happened during her term. She asked if there is any proposed legislation to reduce the town's contribution to the employee's retirement system, noting the 103% increase for the firefighters, the 47% increase for police and 42% increase for Group II. Mrs. Searle asked why the burden falls on the taxpayers when the State's investments don't do well. Representative O'Neil said that the State Retirement system is funded through contributions by the employer and the employee, and up until a few years ago the employer paid in 1.9% of the employees salaries and the employees paid 5%. New Hampshire's retirement system is rated as the 4<sup>th</sup> best retirement system in the country. He said that there is no legislation pending to reduce the contribution from the employer or the employee, and he would not expect to see any for the next few years. Mrs. Searle said the increases were 103%, 47% and 42% to the employer with no increase to the employee. Representative O'Neil pointed out that the town's contribution for teachers went from 4.5% to 5% and for police it went from 9% to 10%. Mrs. Searle noted that for firefighter's the rate went from 6.61% to 13.44% of the employees salary and Group II went from 5.33% to 7.87%. Representative O'Neil explained that when times were good and the fund made money the contribution rates for the employer were reduced although they were not reduced for the employee, he added that there is discussion about stabilizing the rates within the system to avoid this type of fluctuation. Mrs. Searle said that she feels it is grossly unfair to balance the fund on the backs of the taxpayers; it should have been done by both the employee and the town. Representative O'Neil added that the state also contributes 35% into the state retirement system.

Mrs. Searle asked about the elder abuse bill, and said she hopes the committee will be taking into consideration that caregivers are sometimes abused by the elderly. Rep. Bridle said that the committee is aware of that but the focus of this bill is on the elderly that are infirmed and subject to abuse by caregivers.

Mrs. Searle told the delegation that she was taken aback that the town pays NHMA something between \$11,000 - \$12,000 for the privilege to belong to their organization and those funds foot the bill for a lobbyist that is earning \$100,000. She stated that she does not believe that NHMA is always working for the taxpayer. Mrs. Searle urged the representatives to consider the "raid" on the trust fund, which is approaching \$16 million dollars and is the savings account for the town. Mrs. Searle pointed out that the interest from the trust fund reduced the tax rate by 50 cents this year and if that money is borrowed it will not be available to reduce the tax rate. Mrs. Searle said that the only the Selectmen will have access to the funds. She offered rides to any resident that objects to this legislation and wants to go to the public hearing.

Mrs. Searle said that the other issue concerning Hampton is the setting up of a committee to oversee the beach master plan. She stated she was proud that she voted against supporting this legislation because she wanted a provision added that members of the committee have to be a resident and/or voter of Hampton. Mrs. Searle said that she had been told at the Board of Selectmen meeting that the Commission will not have any control over spending any money but the wording in the Bill indicates that they will have the ability to raise funds to be deposited into the Hampton Beach Master Plan fund and appropriate amounts to the commission. Mrs. Searle said that the commissioners and employees will be paid and they will have the power to bond. Rep. Francoeur said that this bill is the same as standard commission study bills, and the place to debate the bill is before the committee on Wednesday. Mr. Workman said that this is a misrepresentation by Mrs. Searle and the wording she referenced has been in the bill from the beginning and is what was presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Workman stated that it was clearly explained that the Commission will not have authority to spend town funds.

Mrs. Searle asked if the Representatives intend to attend the Coalition hearing. Rep. O'Neil said that he has to chair a committee meeting and is unable to attend. Representative Francoeur said that she will be looking at all of the bills on the floor before taking a stand. Rep. Bridle said that he is not able to attend, and agreed that the Coalition's proposal is one of many plans he will review. Mrs. Searle asked if the Gatsas and Hess plans are long-term and will eliminate the property tax. Rep. Francoeur said that Gatsas plan is not a long-term plan; the Hess plan would be a long-term plan and refines the statewide property tax; it will try to stabilize the amount being spent much like the coalition plan. Mrs. Searle said she hopes the goal of the representatives of Hampton would be to eliminate the donor part of this education-funding thing. Rep. Francoeur said that her goal is to represent the community to the best of her ability and do what is right for Hampton and the State of New Hampshire. Mrs. Searle asked if the representatives think the tax is here to stay. Rep. Francoeur said she believes it will stay in some form, but hopefully at a lower rate. Rep. O'Neil believes it is a fact that the property tax will be part of the solution, and it is his goal to get it down as low as possible. Representative Kelley said that all of the representatives will do what is in the best interest of Hampton and will try their best to represent the people, recognizing that they are just 5 of 400 representatives.

Representative Gillick said that it is hoped that after the Governor speaks on Thursday, the Education Committee will have some idea on how to move forward with the finance matters. Rep. Gillick reminded Mrs. Searle that in addition to NHMA, the Granite State Taxpayers also speak on various bills. Mrs. Searle acknowledged that but noted that the Granite State Taxpayers are not supported by municipal funds.

Mr. Sullivan asked if there are any Senate Bills that affect the Seacoast this year. Rep. Gillick said that there is one that creates a study committee to review ground fish protection. Mr. Sullivan thanked the delegation for the great job they are doing and for this update. Mrs. Bridle added that she hoped the representatives take back to Concord the fact that Hampton has no money for unfunded mandates. Mr. Sullivan added that it could be worse, Hampton could be twelve miles south and be in Massachusetts.

The public can follow the Bills through the state website at [www.state.nh.us](http://www.state.nh.us).

Town Manager's ReportJY Settlement

Mr. Barrington reported that the legal costs associated with the JY settlement agreement totaled \$4,928.50 and settlement checks were issued to 199 current and former employees.

Marelli Square

The Town Manager told the Board that he received a call, and subsequently a visit from Terry Waldron, the owner of the property between Marelli Square and the railroad bridge that includes the beauty shop and the Hampton Union offices. We discussed the status of the railroad bridge project and Mr. Waldron expressed interest in being involved and willingness to work with the town. Mr. Waldron also pointed out that the Depot Clippers building had once been the switch house for the railroad, and that it had been moved to its present location from a point approximately where the *Hampton Union* building is now located.

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he and Attorney Mark Gearreald have an appointment with Attorney Al Casassa to try to finalize the easement situation at Marelli Square with Stan Brown. An issue came up as it relates to the sidewalk on the south side, which had purposely been excluded from the easement and Mr. Brown would like that area included. Mr. Barrington said that it had been purposely excluded based on the costs of replacing the sidewalk and he asked for some direction from the Board about taking over the sidewalk as well.

Railroad Bridge Meeting

The Board of Selectmen was informed about a notice from Mr. Bob Barry, N.H. Department of Transportation about a meeting to be held on Feb. 21st concerning the B& M proposed agreements concerning the railroad bridges.

Gazebo

Mrs. Bridle asked about the status of the gazebo. Mr. Barrington said that he called Doc Noel to ask about that and learned that there was some question about the cost of landscaping that the Chamber is trying to get cleared up before the gazebo is turned over to the town.

Coalition Presentation

Mrs. Searle asked what the Town Manager thought about the Coalition Communities' presentation. Mr. Barrington said that he thinks their targeted aid plan may be a reasonable approach, but he has not heard the oppositions concerns. Mr. Barrington pointed out that removing the funding from the donor communities will require that the money be made up from somewhere else. Mrs. Searle said that it appeared to her that a tremendous amount of research was done to come up with the formula. Mr. Barrington said that he feels it was an effort to put forth something that could be a viable solution. Mrs. Searle said that it is not an effort to yank the rug out from under the recipients and she thinks it is a positive and generous approach. Mr. Barrington said that he thinks the recipient towns will want to see the donor system phased down.

Marelli Square

Mrs. Searle asked if the town is going to get an easement around Marelli Square that includes a freestanding sign in the right of way. Mr. Barrington said that if these easements are signed, that is included in part of it. He explained that the town is getting the right to use the roadway for sewer and drainage easements and we are giving in return the maintenance of that area. Mrs. Searle said she believes there is a statute about obstructions on right of ways. Mr. Barrington this area is an easement, not a right-of-way. Mrs. Searle asked if someone were to hit the pole, who would pay for the damages? Mrs. Searle said that she always thought the sign was in the grass area, but it was pointed out to her that it is in the road.

Railroad Bridge

Mrs. Searle asked what is happening with the bid process for the bridge. Mr. Barrington said that he is continuing to review the proposal from CLD that the State has reviewed. The state's recommendations have been included. The proposal is approximately \$68,000 at this time and he is trying to review where

the cuts were made and if it is enough of a reduction. The proposal is for the engineering review and conceptual design of the repair/replacement of the railroad bridge. Mr. Barrington said that it includes looking at the intersection and determining what can be done to straighten it out and improve the line of sight coming from the west.

#### JY Settlement

Mrs. Searle pointed out that the legal tab for the \$194,000 “payoff” was about \$5,000. She said she found it interesting that the December bill from Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green wrote off \$3,600 in relation to that case, and she asked if that is common practice. Mr. Workman said that it was common. Mrs. Searle asked if the firm was requested to do this. Mr. Barrington said that he did request that the charges be reviewed because he felt that the process took more time than had been anticipated. He explained that Attorney Bailey was tied up for an extended period of the time on a federal case and Attorney McGrath had to take over the process and as a result the bill was adjusted. Mrs. Searle asked what period does this \$5,000 cover. Mr. Barrington said that he did not know for sure but presumes that it goes back to the beginning of the settlement. Mrs. Searle asked if it would be extra work to determine how the \$4,900 was arrived at. Mr. Sullivan asked what difference it makes. Mr. Workman said that it is not uncommon for matters to take longer than they should and in interest of client relations the expenses are written down by most firms.

Mr. Sullivan said that the amount of money was tied in to the number of employees that received a settlement, but if anyone has responsibility for causing this it is the Trust.

#### SERT Team

Mr. Sullivan commended the Police Department supervisors for having the sense to call the SERT team to assist with the incident on G Street last week, rather than put Hampton officers in jeopardy.

#### Rotary Request to Hang Banner/Auction

Mr. Barrington reported to the Board that upon asking for clarification of times for the Rotary Auction this year, he was told that the projected schedule is 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen allow the banner to be hung across Lafayette Road for the Rotary Auction and permit the auction to be televised on channel 22.

**Mr. Sullivan SECONDED**

Mrs. Searle said that she thinks the auction is a misuse of channel 22 when the public can't use it to express their opinions on warrant articles, which are town business; and it will be monopolized by a charitable organization for four hours, two days before the town votes. Mrs. Searle said she has no problem with the banner or with the Rotary Club, but feels this is an absolute misuse of town equipment. Mrs. Searle said that it appears that if the Town Manager mentions something at the Selectmen's meeting and nobody objects, it is assumed to be all right. Mrs. Searle said that Mr. Barrington and Mrs. Anderson knew about the conflict and should have brought it to the Board's attention.

Mr. Workman said that the deliberative session and lists of warrant articles can be run continuously from now until voting day and people who want the information will get it while others will not. He said that using channel 22 for four hours for the auction will not skew the voting results. Mr. Sullivan expressed concern with Mrs. Searle's statement that Mr. Barrington and Mrs. Anderson knew about it. Mrs. Searle said that they absolutely should have known that date was two days before the election because they have known the date of the election for months. Mr. Workman said that the date was announced to the Board by Mr. Jett in November and no one on the Board said anything.

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 OPPOSED (Searle)**

Mrs. Searle asked about the status of the Cable Committee's policy on the use of the channel. Mr. Sullivan said that there have not been any meetings since the drafted notes were received from the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Searle asked to have this on the next agenda.



Warrant Articles & E-Mails

Mrs. Searle said she asked to have these two items put on the agenda and will discuss them together because she feels that the two issues are intertwined. Mrs. Searle said that a letter read by Attorney Gearreald at the Deliberative Session referenced an e-mail from Mr. Warburton, so she subsequently requested a copy of that e-mail. She was provided a copy of the e-mail that had been sent by Mr. Warburton through Liberty Mutual. Mrs. Searle said that Mr. Warburton's e-mail referred to a spreadsheet that had been sent to him as an attachment for the Board of Selectmen, but the Town Manager did not see fit to provide that to her. Mrs. Searle asked why he discriminates against her. Mr. Barrington said that he is not sure what spreadsheet she is referring to. Mrs. Searle said it was the tax impact for warrant articles and asked if anyone other than the people listed on the e-mail got copies of it. Mr. Workman said that the spreadsheet was prepared for and available at the Deliberative Session.

Mrs. Searle said that she wanted to take this a step further because it was important to her to understand what the e-mail policy is, because she is not in a position to afford the time or the internet service for e-mail. Mrs. Searle said that she has a part-time position and her employee frowns on the use of equipment for personal use. Mr. Barrington said that e-mail is available to everyone and he treats it as a phone call if something needs immediate attention, and he faxes the information to Mrs. Searle's home. Quick inquiries via e-mail are handled and taken care of. Mrs. Searle asked if everyone sees all of the inquiries. Mr. Barrington said that is not necessary. Mrs. Searle said that when she requests something of the Town Manager copies are made for everyone else. She said she will not be here in a few weeks and wanted whoever fills her position to know that anyone who does not subscribe to the backroom deals, the discussion happens on the computer and the right to know law provides for the information to be available.

Mrs. Searle said that she did not receive a copy of Attorney Gearreald's letter prior to the Deliberative Session. The remainder of the Board said that they had not received copies of the letter. Mrs. Searle asked if in the future everyone would see all of the e-mails. Mrs. Bridle said that she had no interest of receiving copies of all the e-mails. Mr. Workman gave an example from today, explaining that after the Town Manager's meeting at Marelli Square he received e-mail from him about the sidewalk asking if it should be on the agenda next week or should it be bought up under the Town Manager's report. Mr. Workman said that as Chairman he recommended that it be discussed at this meeting. That was all handled quickly through an e-mail, that would have no need to be copied for the Board.

Private Roads

Mrs. Searle asked about the status of the private roads. Mr. Barrington said that is on the "to do" list.

Public Works Emergency Number

Mrs. Searle asked if there is an emergency phone number for the public to reach Public Works. Mr. Barrington said that matter was discussed at the staff meeting. In the Public Work's proposed budget there is a voice mail system that will provide an after hours message for the public instructing them to call the Police Department if there is an emergency. Mrs. Searle asked if that is expensive. Mr. Barrington said that he does not want a Department to have an automated answering system, but does feel that the voice mail and after hours message will be useful. Mr. Warburton said that he finds that type of system very effective for routing into departments.

Town Report

Mrs. Searle asked about the schedule for the town report. Mr. Barrington said that the audit arrived today and was delivered to the printer so the reports should be ready in approximately 10 days. Mrs. Searle asked if there are any plans to provide sample ballots. Mr. Barrington said that is handled by the Town Clerk's office. Mrs. Searle said she did not understand why applications for absentee ballots and sample ballots couldn't be placed on the counter for residents. Mr. Barrington said that he is not sure about the rules for absentee ballot applications, but sample ballots could be on the counter. Mr. Sullivan will talk to the Town Clerk about that.

Project Impact

Mrs. Searle asked about the Emergency Preparedness Guide that Project Impact is soliciting ads for. Mr. Barrington said that through Project Impact a guide is being put together for all of the residents, with the bulk of the \$1,500 cost being born by Seacoast Newspapers. Mrs. Searle said she thinks this is an absolute waste because residents get one from Seabrook. Mr. Barrington said that Seabrook Emergency handbook is geared to events from the nuclear plant, which is just one of the hazards that exist, this is an all hazard guide for Hampton that will include information on flooding, storms and other disasters. Mrs. Searle said that advertisements are being solicited at \$100 - \$200 to offset some of the costs. Mrs. Searle asked if the Town is paying someone to put this together. Mr. Barrington said that the Project Impact Coordinator is working with the Seacoast Newspapers on this and she has a draft of the guide that he has made some recommendations to.

Audited Financial Report

Mrs. Searle stated that she appreciated getting the copy of the budget report as audited at the end of year and asked for the revenues in order to consider the whole picture. Mrs. Searle said that some of the warrant articles are over-expended and she asked what the auditor said about that. Mr. Barrington said that he has not had a chance to talk with Mrs. Duhamel about that.

Project Impact

Mrs. Bridle said that she agreed with Mrs. Searle in regard to the solicitation of donations for the disaster guide. Mrs. Bridle said that Hampton does have other emergencies beside Seabrook but she did not think the town should be asking local businesses to sponsor it. Mr. Workman said that if it is read by a few people, it could save a life or two. Mr. Barrington said that many businesses appreciate the opportunity to advertise in this type of publication and one of the aspects of Project Impact is partnering with businesses. Mrs. Bridle said she has seen lots of magnets and other trinkets for Project Impact and she does not know where they have gone. Mr. Workman said that we have encouraged our Town Manager and department heads to think outside of the box and look at creative ways to fund projects and this is one way.

Absentee Ballots

Mrs. Bridle pointed out that any candidate can make up copies of sample ballots and go door to door with them.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**1. Disposition of Police Horse

Mrs. Searle asked how the Town picked the person to donate the horse to. Mr. Barrington said that the individual has been one of the grooms that has been taking care of the police horses for the Town. He added that "Sergeant" is the injured horse, which due to it's medical condition needs to be retired from police duty. Mr. Sullivan said that Ms. Porciello was present for any questions the Board may have. Mrs. Bridle asked if the horse had been given to the town from the Police Association. Mr. Barrington said that it had.

Mrs. Searle asked what is wrong with Sergeant. Ms. Heather Porciello said that over 4 years ago "Eb" was with the rest of the horses and got into a scuffle with another horse resulting in a broken a coccyx. The horse was able to come back to full-time duty, but had been subject to persistent infections and spreading paralysis as a result of the injury. As of last March there were some neurological changes at the site and September the horse's tail bone was taken off. Ms. Porciello said that the veterinarian is not sure what is going on in the tail and is not sure if it can be healed. Mr. Sullivan noted that Ms. Porciello is a Rye police officer and the horse is going to someone that could not give him any better care. Attorney Gearreald stated that he worked with Ms. Porciello on this agreement and his recommended changes have been made.

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to sign the transfer/adoption agreement for the police horse "Sergeant".

**Mr. Warburton SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Vehicles in the White's Lane Area

Mrs. Searle pointed out that the Town has received a letter of concern about motorized vehicles being in the White's Lane area and she asked if the town is going to enforce the regulations. Mr. Barrington said that the town continues to try to enforce the regulations, and stated that people that go into that area with motorized vehicles do so illegally and the police try to catch them. It is a matter of having the resources to catch everyone that goes in there. Mr. Sullivan said that the impetus of the letter is as a result of the injuries and deaths that have occurred in similar areas with snow mobiles and the town needs to make sure that the area has adequate warnings, such as "gate ahead". Mrs. Searle asked if Mrs. Bean witnesses vehicles in there, should she call the police? Mr. Barrington said he would not discourage any resident that sees vehicles in there from calling the police, but noted that it could be frustrating if the police are not able to get there in time. If the police are able to catch one or two, the word will spread. Mr. Sullivan said that at least one of the snow mobile related deaths resulted from someone running from the police. Mrs. Searle asked if this also applies to the area near the James House. Mr. Barrington said that it does, and informed the Board that the police were able to catch the person responsible for making mounds for jumps in that area and the person has had to restore the area. Mr. Barrington said that it is difficult for recreational vehicles to get in there, but it is not impossible.

President's Day

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen not meet next Monday, President's Day.

**Mr. Warburton SECONDED**

**VOTE: 3 FOR**

**2 OPPOSED (Searle, Bridle)**

Channel 22

Mr. Sullivan said that as representative to the Cable Committee he wanted to inform the Board that there have been some complaints about the quality of the tape from the deliberative session. He said that he understands that there is no problem with the equipment, and residents have to remember that all of the people doing the work are volunteers. Mr. Sullivan told the Board that he had one volunteer call him today to resign as a member of the Cable Committee as a result of a member of the Board of Selectmen calling him, berating him about taking more pictures of Bill Wrenn than of other people at the Penguin Plunge. Mr. Sullivan said that the channel is run by volunteers and if the town wants to spend money and hire professionals to do it, that is a separate issue. Some people can operate the equipment better than others, like anything else, and that can show in the final project. Mrs. Searle said that the portion of the meeting she watched last Tuesday looked like there was some interference that appeared to be an equipment issue.

Mr. Pete McKinnon of the Cable Committee joined the Board and explained that the Deliberative Session was taped on 8-hour tapes and the VCR used for the re-broadcast had not been used for a month and was defective. There was some interference as a result of the mechanical problem which should be resolved at this time. He noted that the sound and the quality of the tape is perfect. Mr. McKinnon said that another problem that occurred was the lunch break delay caused the re-play tape to trigger the Bulletin Board instead of continuing with the meeting. Brad Jett has corrected that problem also. Mr. McKinnon said that the volunteers on the committee do the best they can, but the equipment was not working correctly and they had no way to test it. Mrs. Searle asked when the Deliberative Session is being replayed. Mr. McKinnon said that specific times are shown on the Bulletin Board but he believes it is each Tuesday and Saturday.

Mr. Warburton said that he talked to the Chairman of the School Board, Sandy Nickerson regarding the voice quality of the broadcasts of the School Board meetings. While he understands that the microphones are not always used correctly he thinks that there has to be more to the problem that needs to be addressed. Mr. Warburton said that the public has a lot of interest in the school board meetings and he suggested that the School Board might want to meet in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Mr. Warburton said that Bill Wrenn is his best friend and people in Hampton had expressed concerns to him about channel 22 showcasing more Hampton residents and less town officials. Mr. Warburton said that he feels badly that Brad felt he was berating him because that was not his intent.



**VI. MINUTES**

The minutes of January 27, 2003 were reviewed with no changes made.

The minutes of February 3, 2003 were reviewed with no changes made.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Lien Release
2. Land Rent Warrant

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board approve the consent agenda.

**Mr. Warburton SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Claire McKee-Libby expressed concerns about the request of a Selectmen to have every e-mail the Town Manager gets copied for her. She asked who is going to pay for the time and paper work to copy all of the e-mail correspondence. Mr. Workman said that under the Right to Know law there are many things that are discoverable, and the cost to copy the e-mails will be born by the taxpayers. Mrs. McKee-Libby said that concerns her as a taxpayer. She said she has concerns about the tough times and economy, and it seems we have to pay a lot of money to get one member of the Board of Selectmen information, copies, and do research. Mrs. McKee-Libby requested that the Town Manager check with the town attorney and if the copies don't have to be provided, to please not do it.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mrs. Searle MOTIONED** that the meeting be adjourned. ( 9:25 PM)

**Mr. Warburton SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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Chairman